



NH PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INTERCONNECTION AND GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION (SIGI) GRANTS

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND BACKGROUND

General Information

Enclosed are materials for your use in applying for grants under RSA 486-A, which was amended by the NH Legislature to include Water System Interconnection and Groundwater Investigation (SIGI) Grants. Please note that these grants reimburse 25 percent of eligible costs for interconnection of two or more public water systems or for investigation of the contamination of wells affected by manmade chemicals at detectable concentrations. An application can be submitted for projects which are anticipated, in progress, or already completed. Only costs for work performed after July 1, 2003 are eligible for reimbursement.

Grants under RSA 486-A also include filtration grants to water systems incurring costs due to compliance with the Surface Water Treatment Rule. Because all three grants are currently included in a single line of the state budget, the following is the order under which payments on grants will be given priority in any given fiscal year:

1. Filtration grants
2. Interconnection grants
3. Groundwater investigation grants

Also, new grants will be approved based on funds remaining after payments have been made on existing grants.

Reimbursement of costs will be made consistent with payments made by the water system for eligible costs, i.e. principle and interest for bond payments or lump sum for lump sum cash expenditures. Reimbursement for past principle and interest payments may be eligible.

Application and Award Schedule

Following is the application and award schedule which we expect to follow each year for which funds for new grants are available:

- Notice of availability of funds mailed to water systems – prior to April 30
- Deadline for grant applications – July 1
- Availability of draft priority list – August 1
- Public hearing on the draft priority list – prior to August 31

Eligible costs

Interconnection grants – Eligible items:

- Engineering for planning, design and construction administration specific to the project
- Construction of water mains, booster stations, appurtenances, and restoration
- A portion of costs to upgrade wells or treatment plants to extend regional water service based on a rational apportionment of costs.

Interconnection grants – Ineligible items:

- Land acquisition, except for that related to source improvements or pumping stations
- Easements and rights-of-way

- Administrative, legal and fiscal (short term borrowing and bond procurement) costs

Groundwater investigation grants – Eligible items:

- Technical investigations of the source and extent of man-made contamination, except MTBE
- Preliminary engineering related to developing a scope of work for the investigation

Groundwater investigation grants – Ineligible items

- Administrative, legal and fiscal (short term borrowing and bond procurement) costs

Priority Ranking of Projects

Applications will be ranked according to a point system with the following factors:

- Population of the service area that would receive water through the regional interconnection or the well under investigation
- Degree to which the public's health, safety, and economic well-being will benefit
- The impact on user fees, without grant support, in the service area that would receive water
- The impact on taxes, without grant support, in the service area that would receive water
- Conformity with land use master plans and with the provisions of NH smart growth policy

Note that a project which is placed on the priority list may be bypassed if it is determined that the project will not be ready to proceed during the current state fiscal biennium.

Application Details

The following must accompany the completed application:

1. A tabulation of project costs for which state aid is being requested. Indicate those costs which are believed to be eligible based on the above. Identify all costs for which grant funds have been received or are anticipated from other sources.
2. A certified copy of warrant articles, city council resolution, or other budget appropriation which authorizes funding of the project. For projects not yet fully funded, please include a statement as to how (town meeting, City Council, etc.) and when funding is anticipated.
3. A form certifying authorization of an individual to act on behalf of the water system's governing body (Selectmen, Commissioners, etc.) (See form in application package.)
4. Anticipated or actual debt amortization schedule for the project, if appropriate.
5. Current water rate structure for all public water systems applying for funds or proposed to be interconnected under the project.
6. A statement as to how the proposed project and resulting land use impacts conform to land use master plans in the affected municipalities.

Questions

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